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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao.NORTH CHINA SUFFERS SERIES OF DISASTERS

REGULATIONS TO CONTROL PLAGUE IN CHAHAR -- Ta Kung Pao, 31 Oct 49

Pei-p'ing, 29 October (NCNA) -- The North China People's government and the North China Military Control Commission proclaimed jointly today antiplague regulations to forestall the spread of the plague from north Chahar. The announcement emphasized that all the regulations must be enforced as the plague is gradually working itself southward, and that 90 percent of the afflicted persons die from the dread disease.

49 DEATHS SINCE OUTBREAK -- Ta Kung Pao, 31 Oct 49

Ch'ang-chia-k'ou (Kalgan), 29 October (NCNA) -- The Chahar Provincial government announced that up to 29 October there were 49 deaths from the plague in north Chahar. The mortality rate in the plague areas is as follows:

Thirty-four deaths in Feng-peng village, located 30 miles northeast of K'ang-pao city. No deaths reported for the past 8 days.

Four deaths in Miao-ts'un and another village, both east of Feng-peng. No deaths reported for the past 6 days.

One death in An-chia-kou, 14 miles north of K'ang-chia city.

One death in Wen-chia-ying, 20 miles northwest of Pao-yuan.

Seven deaths in Pei-sha city, located directly north of Pao-yuan.

One death in an unidentified village. The family of the deceased cremated and buried the body without informing the proper authority. The postmortem examination, however, proved that the victim died of the plague.

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According to the survey made by the Public Safety Bureau, there were nine deaths in Ch'ang-chia-k'ou from 24 to 29 October. Of the nine deaths, only two were suspected as being caused by the plague. The reasons for the other seven deaths have not yet been determined as it requires 5 days after the post-mortem examination to make proper diagnosis. The bureau also stated that persons susceptible to plague include weak, elderly persons, those suffering from serious ailments, those having difficulty in childbirth, those with venereal disease, and those having cerebral hemorrhage.

The North and Northeast China Antiplague Team has already examined 70 persons ill in Ch'ang-chia-k'ou and reported that not a single case of plague was found aside from the two discovered by the Public Safety Bureau. One member of the antiplague team said that it is still too early to ascertain whether there is any plague epidemic in that city.

CALAMITIES INCLUDE FLOODS, INSECTS -- Ta Kung Pao, 21 Oct 49

(NCNA) -- North China has suffered unprecedented natural calamities this year, the worst being the summer floods beginning in July. Next, destructive insects invaded 222 hsien, and hailstorms damaged crops in all of the provinces. More than a million mou (one mou equals one-sixth acre) of land in Chahar alone were damaged. Flood disasters were such as had not been known for several decades. Ninety hsien were affected, with a huge loss of life and property. The worst was in northeastern Hopeh.

Altogether an area of more than 35 million mou in China suffered one calamity or another this year; this is more than 23 percent of the arable land. Ten million persons of the population have been affected, 3½ million seriously.

The Party and government organized a movement to combat these calamities. During the spring drought, 150,000 wells were dug, while more than 2 million persons in Hopeh alone were mobilized to fight the summer insects. Flood-control experts were secured in advance and during the rainy season all classes of people were mobilized, putting in 5-million man-days of labor. Brave exploits were performed in this dangerous work by both men and women. Dikes were reinforced for a distance of 33 miles, and 82 breaks were repaired.

Judging from the experience of these months, there is need for organization and discipline along all lines under Party leadership and with full cooperation by all.

An average yield of 65 percent of the harvest has been attained for North China. The authorities are trying to cope with the problems of livelihood and production. About 5 percent of the 10 million inhabitants are in urgent need. By the early part of September, about 80 percent of the farmland in 32 hsien of Hopeh was free from water. Much seedwheat and goods for immediate relief has been sent to North China in addition to 3 million catties of rice.

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